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HFAC

OLL 84-4380

30 October 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of House Foreign Affairs Committee
Staffers on European and North African Security
Issues

1. On 30 October 1984, Toni Verstandig, Tommy Bruce, and Gardner Peckham, House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) staffers, were briefed in 7B02 Headquarters from 1415 to 1545 on various issues regarding the physical security of US persons and facilities in Cyprus, France, Greece, Tunisia, and Morocco. The briefing was at the Secret level, and the staffers notes were forwarded to them on the morning NID run on 31 October.

2. The briefing on the European countries was provided by [redacted] Directorate of Intelligence/Office of Global Issues (DI/OGI), and [redacted] Directorate of Intelligence/ Office of European Analysis. They provided an assessment of the security threat in each country, the kinds of terrorist threats that have been received, the terrorist groups active in the area, and the general political scene in the country as it affected the stability of the regimes. Cyprus and Greece were characterized as high threat areas for US persons and facilities, while France was assessed to be a moderate threat area.

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3. The North African briefing was handled by [redacted] Directorate of Intelligence/Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis, and [redacted] DI/OGI. Staffers Verstandig and Peckham are very familiar with this area and have been briefed on current developments regularly. This discussion was more wide-ranging in looking at topics such as the Morocco-Libya Union, the state of the Polisario insurgency, the succession in Tunisia, and Islamic fundamentalism in both nations. The security situation in both countries was assessed to be low, but political instability could lift both into the moderate range with little warning. The Moroccan security service was thought to be more capable and forthcoming than the Tunisian, but both were deemed effective in responding to specific threats to US personnel and facilities.

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4. In summary, the briefings were brisk and to the point. The staffers appeared completely satisfied--except that they complained that the room was excruciatingly hot, which it was. No follow up actions are anticipated.

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Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Chief, Liaison Division, OLL

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Approved For Release 2008/11/07 : CIA-RDP90B01370R000400520014-6

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